

California

Veteran Suicide Data Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducted the Nation's most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the United States. The resulting report, released in 2016, examined more than 55 million records from 1979 to 2014 in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Data from the report have allowed us to examine Veteran suicide rates in each state and region.

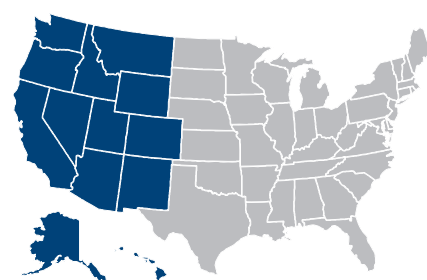
This California Veteran Suicide Data Sheet is based on a collaborative effort among VA, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The statistics herein are derived from multiple data sources, including the VA Office of Enterprise Integration, the VA Serious Mental Illness Treatment Resource and Evaluation Center, VA Post-Deployment Health Services, the VA Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention, and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. Cause of death was identified through the NCHS National Death Index (NDI). For additional information, please email Dr. Megan McCarthy, Deputy Director, Suicide Prevention, VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, at megan.mccarthy@va.gov.

California Veteran Suicide Deaths, 2014

Sex	Veteran Suicides
Total	662
Male	634
Female	28

Western Region

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming



California, Western Region^a, and National Veteran Suicide Deaths^{bc}, by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	California Veteran Suicides	Western Region Veteran Suicides	National Veteran Suicides	California Veteran Suicide Rate	Western Region Veteran Suicide Rate	National Veteran Suicide Rate
Total	662	1,970	7,388	39.1	45.5	38.4
18-34	81	276	1,171	47.1	64.7	70.4
35-54	166	559	2,193	45.0	56.0	47.7
55-74	236	692	2,594	32.3	35.9	30.4
75+	179	443	1,430	42.3	45.2	32.0

After accounting for differences in age, the Veteran suicide rate in California was significantly lower than the national Veteran suicide rate ($p=0.0044$)^d.



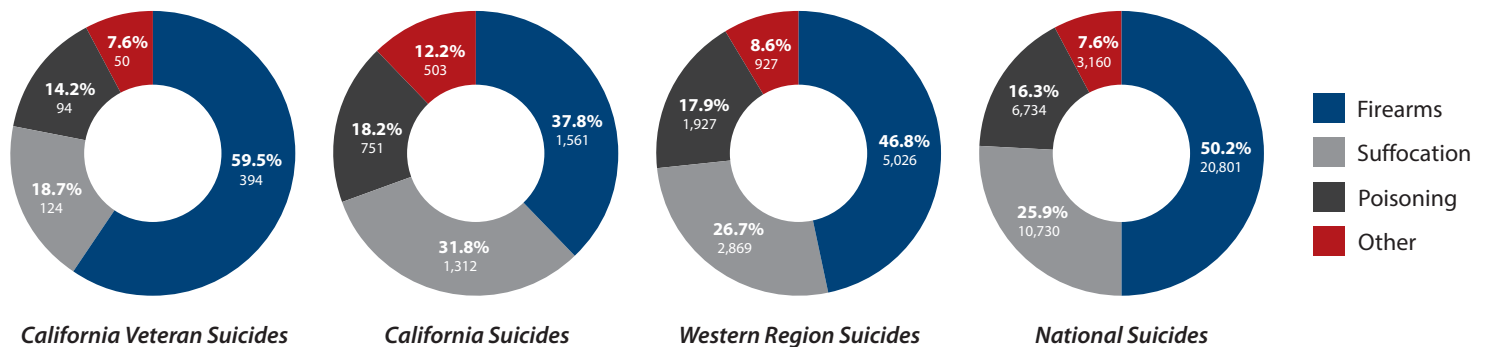
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Mental Health and
Suicide Prevention

California Veteran and Overall California, Western Region^a, and National Suicide Deaths^{b,c,e}, by Age Group, 2014

Age Group	California Veteran Suicides	California Total Suicides	Western Region Total Suicides	National Total Suicides	California Veteran Suicide Rate	California Suicide Rate	Western Region Suicide Rate	National Suicide Rate
Total	662	4,127	10,749	41,425	39.1	14.0	18.8	17.0
18–34	81	963	2,774	10,732	47.1	10.0	15.3	14.5
35–54	166	1,484	3,873	15,473	45.0	14.3	19.7	18.4
55–74	236	1,214	3,041	11,637	32.3	16.5	20.3	17.5
75+	179	466	1,061	3,583	42.3	21.6	24.9	18.1

After accounting for differences in age, the Veteran suicide rate in California was significantly higher than the overall national suicide rate ($p < .0001$)^d.

California Veteran and Overall California, Western Region, and National Suicide Deaths by Method^f, 2014



Statistics contained herein are derived from the U.S. adult population 18 years of age or older. Suicide rates displayed are standard unadjusted mortality rates per 100,000 people. These rates are based on the number of suicide deaths within the 2014 calendar year divided by the population estimates multiplied by 100,000. The national statistics displayed include the contiguous United States, plus Alaska and Hawaii. The overall state, regional, and national rates presented include both Veterans and non-Veterans. Significance testing and rankings are derived from the direct age-adjusted rates, using the 2000 standard U.S. population^g. Because suicide rates based on less than 20 suicide deaths are considered unreliable, any comparisons of age-adjusted rates with underlying age-specific rates with less than 20 suicide deaths should be interpreted with caution.

A customary “rule of twenty” was applied to all rates based on a number of suicides that was less than 20. These rates are marked with an asterisk (*) as unreliable because rates calculated on a small number of deaths are considered unstable, and a small change in the number of suicides can result in a large change in the rate.

The method of suicide death is based on the cause of death listed on the state death certificate using the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (ICD-10), and for which the underlying cause of death is defined as (a) the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or (b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury (World Health Organization, Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Cause of Death, based on the recommendations of the Ninth Revision Conference, 1975; Geneva, 1977). For purposes of this data sheet, the ICD-10 codes used to define suicide deaths are X60–X84 and Y87.0.

^a Western region includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

^b Rates presented are crude rates per 100,000. Death counts and rates are suppressed when based on 0–9 people. Rates calculated with a numerator of less than 20 are considered unreliable, as indicated by an asterisk (*).

^c Veteran and overall population estimates used for rate calculations are obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Specific population estimates used in rate calculations are available upon request.

^d Suicide rates presented here are unadjusted for age and are influenced by the underlying age distribution of the state or region. Age-adjusting suicide rates ensures that differences in rates are not due to differences in the age distributions of the populations being compared. In some cases, the results of comparisons of age-adjusted rates differ from those of unadjusted rates.

^e National, regional, and California state total suicide counts are obtained from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) WONDER online database. For more information on CDC WONDER, please refer to <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>.

^f Methods are defined based on ICD-10 codes X72 to X74 for firearm, X60 to X69 for poisoning (including intentional overdose), and X70 for suffocation (including strangulation). “Other” includes cut/pierce, drowning, fall, fire/flame, other land transport, struck by/against, and other specified or unspecified injury.

^g Klein, RJ, and Schoenborn, CA. Age adjustment using the 2000 projected U.S. population. Healthy People Statistical Notes, no. 20. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. January 2001.